

*Question 1: How will your party support the important role that public libraries play as community digital hubs including the provision of internet access?*

The Alliance feels that everyone should have access to high speed internet so that the benefits of digital technology are available to everyone. We would be keen to see libraries funded to offer free internet access.

*Question 2: How will your party ensure New Zealanders are digitally literate? Do you support the roles that libraries are playing in meeting this need?*

We see it as vital that everybody has the opportunity to become digitally literate. We would like to see libraries supported to meet this need. Digital technology changes so rapidly that it is hard for the general public to keep up. Public libraries are accessible to all – young and old. It makes sense for public libraries to be a repository of this knowledge and to assist people to come to grips with new technology.

*Question 4: What is your party's position on ensuring that all publicly funded research, including data is accessible to all New Zealanders?*

We strongly believe that publicly funded research, including data should be accessible to everyone, everywhere. Nowhere is this more vital environmental research. New technologies and methods of controlling carbon emissions must be made freely available for them to have any impact on preventing global warming. But the same could be argued for much medical research or any research that was for the common good.

*Question 5: Does your party support the presence of a school librarian in schools? What steps will your party take to ensure that all students have access to appropriately qualified school librarians?*

We support school librarians. Literacy skills are vital for student's future success. Schools should be required to employ qualified librarians

*Question 6: What approach does your party plan to take to the review and updating of New Zealand copyright legislation? In what timeframe will you complete a review of the Act?*

Copyright is going to become a critical issue in the future. We are particularly concerned about the effect trade agreements such as the TPP might have on our ability to decide our own copyright legislation. Copyright is a balancing act but we strongly believe that access to information is vital to a democratic and equal society. We would give a review of copyright legislation a high priority but would want to consult widely to make sure we get the balance right.

*Question 7: How will your party ensure that the National Library is appropriately funded to meet its role as a leading cultural and heritage institution, a critical enabler of the educational and research communities of New Zealand; and as a leader in the information and knowledge sector for the country?*

The National Library needs to be fully government funded at a level that enables it fulfill its role effectively. This funding must be ring fenced within Internal Affairs budget.

*Question 9: What is your party's position on creating pay equity for the Library and Information sector?*

The Alliance supports pay equity for all sectors. We acknowledge that that jobs predominantly done by women have historically been underpaid and that this continues today. It is an issue that must be addressed. We consider it a travesty that the aged care sector have had to pursue pay equity through the courts. Like the library and information sector the aged care sector is virtually fully publicly funded. It is up to the government of the day to lead by example on pay equity

by ensuring that pay equity is applied to all sectors it funds.

*Question 10: Will you address the discrepancy of School Librarians being classified as Support rather than Core Staff in schools?*

We do not think there should be a separation of support and core staff at all. All staff are vital to the efficient and effective running of a school. We see this as simply a device to separate salaries that can be bulk funded as part of the operational grant from those paid directly by the ministry. We not approve of bulk funding of salaries for any positions in schools. We believe they should be paid directly by the Ministry of Education. This enables salaries, qualifications and conditions of employment to be standardized in all schools.